

Liaison

Library Association News-Sheet

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December 1958

L.A. NEW SECRETARY

A WARM welcome was given by the L.A. Council to Mr. H. D. Barry, Barrister at Law, D.P.A., who has been appointed successor to Mr. P. S. J. Welsford (who retires in the spring of 1959) as Secretary to the Association. This was confirmed at the November meeting of the L.A. Council when Mr. Barry was introduced to the Council and for a period saw it conducting its business. It is expected that Mr. Barry will take up his new duties in April of next year.

There were fifty-one applicants for the post and Mr. Barry was unanimously recommended for the appointment by a special meeting of the Executive Committee which interviewed four of the applicants.

The Association's new officer is the present Deputy Secretary of the British Dental Association, where he has been since 1949. This is the main professional organization of dentists in the U.K., with 11,000 members, 20 branches, 120 sections and a staff of 50.

Mr. Barry had previously served as Assistant Parliamentary Secretary on the staff of the National Farmers Union. Prior



to that he had been an Administrative Officer with the L.C.C. He is the author of several publications and has written many leading and special articles for the *British Dental Journal* as well as articles in the *Solicitor's Journal* and the *Accountant*. He is 41.

Our new Secretary is married with four children. His interests include sailing—mostly on the Medway—and gardening.

STOP PRESS . . . it has just been announced that Mr. F. C. FRANCIS, C.B., M.A., F.S.A., has been appointed by the Queen to succeed Sir Thomas Kendrick as Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

THE ARTS IN BRITAIN

"An Ill-Advised Comparison"

In pursuing its case for necessary subsidies for itself, the 13th Annual Report of the Arts Council of Great Britain, 1957-1958, makes some disparaging remarks about public libraries. In drawing attention to the "parsimony of our Central and local governments to the arts in Britain" the report comments on the provision of public libraries at a current cost to public funds of £16,000,000 a year.

It states that public libraries are used by a minority of the population and that the books they supply are mainly for recreational reading. "When this widespread system of public patronage was instituted over a century ago, it was designed in large measure to combat illiteracy, but in our time it continues as an amenity wholly provided at public expense." The report condemns the disparity of public expense on the Arts Council (£1,250,000) and that spent on public libraries.

Press comment has been extensive and varied. A leader in the *Times* prompted an immediate and much-needed reply by the President of the Library Association. Professor Irwin countered every point made in the Report on what he believed was a "ill-advised and inaccurate comparison between two entirely different services". Stressing that at least 50 per cent of the population receive direct benefit from the public library service he emphatically dismissed the case that only a quarter of the population are its users.

Professor Irwin concluded by challenging the view that the book supply was mainly for recreational reading. "To an increasing extent readers are borrowing useful non-fiction books and fiction of real literary merit. Public libraries are indeed playing an essential part in the technical, commercial and cultural life of the nation."

Memorial to Dr. Esdaile

It was reported to the Executive Committee that the fund to Dr. Esdaile had now reached a total of £24. The L.A. and the English Association are to meet to consider the possibility of making additional grants. These two bodies are also to discuss the closing date of the appeal and our readers are asked to note that if they wish to contribute they should do so at an early date.

Education Bibliography

A worthy addition to the bibliography of education in this country would appear to have been published recently. This is no. 27 in the *Educational studies and documents* series published by UNESCO. This bibliographical survey is compiled by R. C. Benge (N.W. Polytechnic) and is entitled *Technical and vocational education in the United Kingdom*. It is available from H.M.S.O., price 5s.

The Award that went Thataway

Public librarians will be interested to know that the next meeting of the N.J.C. Grading Sub-Committee will be held on the 17th December. The Association has been pressing for the relevant paragraph of the *Scheme of Conditions* to be amended to read: "The post occupied by a chartered librarian in charge of a branch or district library, or in charge of a department of a library, and supervising a staff of three other whole-time officers, or the equivalent, A.P.T. Grade II."

If a negotiated agreement cannot be reached, the employers' side have agreed to a joint reference being made to the Minister of Labour for settlement by the Industrial Court. As the employers are under no compulsion to make this reference, in the view of some members of the Committee there remains a shred of hope.

CORRECTIONS

In the report of the Appeal by Trinity College, Dublin, in the October issue, it was wrongly stated that Trinity is "one of four Copyright Libraries". The number has not shrunk, it is still six.

An item in the November issue referred to a Gulbenkian grant concerning the London Library. Through the transposition of two sentences at the copy stage a figure of £3,000 a year was incorrectly given. This should have read "£350 a year for three years to the Carlyle Trust, which exists to help scholars and writers to meet the London Library subscription".

NORTHERN BRANCH

Whether or not because of a wish to follow the Royal precedent the Northern Branch meeting at Carlisle in July had to be postponed, but fortunately we were able to make arrangements for 17th September, when a very successful meeting of over sixty members was held.

Mrs. Lorna Hill was the speaker at the afternoon session, and she took as her subject *How I began To Write*, describing her youthful efforts which were aimed at winning popularity at school. Much later, her daughter discovered these manuscript books and demanded more stories. She wrote without any idea of publication and illustrated her notebooks with line drawings. Mrs. Hill showed some examples of this work, which was most attractive. Her ballet stories were the outcome of her daughter's training to be a ballet dancer, but she has given this up to return to art work, and now illustrates her mother's books. Mrs. Hill's talk was delivered in an unusual style, her audience were made to more or less grow up with her, as she began with her childhood writing, and progressed on to the present.

Mr. J. C. Harrison, Senior Lecturer of the Manchester School of Librarianship, addressed the evening session, his talk being entitled *British Librarianship at Mid-Century: Some Problems of an Undetermined Profession*. Taking staffing and recruitment as his main theme, Mr. Harrison stressed the importance to the library service of staff enthusiasm, pointing out that salaries account for about 50 per cent of the cost of the service. The library schools have an important part to play, particularly as students are not drawn from any one type of library and they have more opportunities for wide professional reading. In America greater use is made of this, and library schools have been called on to make surveys of the library service. Mr. Harrison feels that we have not yet worked out our position in the present age, our professional duties and aims. He advocates division of staffs into professional and non-professional, and thinks we do not draw on our full potential for recruitment—the secondary modern pupil for non-professional work and the university graduate for professional posts. Discussion showed that Mr. Harrison's views were controversial, but had to be curtailed because many members had to leave.

The short interval between the Carlisle meeting and that arranged for 1st October did not detract from the attendance, about 100 members gathering at Gosforth for what our Chairman described as a "double feature programme". A most useful and

interesting talk and demonstration was given by **Micro Methods Ltd.** The advantages of micro-recording can be summarized under the headings of economy, both of cost and of storage space; preservation of documents, as micro film will last about 400-500 years; as an insurance against loss of originals; and for widespread interchange of information. Future developments were outlined and the speaker then demonstrated four types of microfilm reader, after which members took full advantage of the opportunity to examine and operate the machines themselves.

In the evening, we were privileged to hear **Professor John Butt**, B.Litt., M.A., of the Department of English, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, the well-known authority on Dickens, on the problems of editing. He spoke of the variations in the texts and how these arose, some from errors not spotted in proof reading, some from parts being added and others omitted in revision, some from extra pieces written in to help the printer to fill up spaces when the bound book was being made up from the weekly parts as published in the magazines. The virtues and defects of the different editions were pointed out and Professor Butt gave his views on what the ideal edition should comprise. He would like to see an edition based on the author's manuscript and the first revised proofs. It should include the author's working notes and his instructions to the illustrators. The cover designs of the monthly parts should be incorporated, and the topical background of the novel, particularly in some cases, seems essential. Bibliographical information was interspersed with homely detail, and Professor Butt's enthusiasm and his attractive personality evinced a warm response from his audience. One member at least felt the urge to own a fine new set of Dickens, preferably in Professor Butt's ideal edition, which we hope will become a reality. DORIS THOMPSON,

* * * * (Wallsend)

The month's quote from a P.R.O., interviewed on the T.V. programme *Panorama*, when irked by silly questions on the need for his job: "Perhaps you did not realize that St. Paul was a magnificent public relations officer for Our Lord."

An important announcement will be made shortly concerning the Association's policy and practice in dealing with posts that are advertised at inadequate salaries.

A.A.L. CAPITATION INCREASE

COUNCIL

Increase in Capitation of 1s. 3d. per head

A report to the Finance Committee on Bank Balances and Investments showed that the Association's financial assets now amount to something like £50,000. Investments bring in approximately £2,500 annually. The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. Hutchings) indicated that with the costs inherent in moving into a new building within the next few years, that the Association would have to think in terms of aiming at a balance of £100,000.

Representatives of the A.A.L. who had presented a case for an increase in capitation were congratulated on their report and the way the Section had conducted its finances. The Committee reviewed this request sympathetically and agreed to increase the *per capita* expenditure by 1s. 3d. This means an increase of approximately £500 annually, taking effect on 1st January 1959. It will be reviewed in two years. This is the A.A.L.'s first application for increased finance since the initial agreement in 1929.

The Birmingham and District Branch's request for a grant of £40 in order to meet its expenses for the rest of the year was approved. The Branch is reviewing its expenditure, particularly the heavy costs of its journal, *Open Access*.

Mr. Foskett, representing the Reference and Special Libraries section, withdrew the section's request for retaining its surplus balance at 31st December 1957. This section is to be indemnified against any deficit shown in the accounts at the end of 1958 and its General and Publications accounts are to be reviewed at the end of this year.

FULL COUNCIL

Full Council was essentially a ratification of the work of its committees. There were several challenges to decisions that were presented. All of them were lost. Mr. Carter (Warrington) wanted the Membership Committee to reconsider the reinstatement of a long-lapsed member. Miss Paulin and Messrs. Tynemouth and Bristow were critical of the new policy for tackling inadequately graded Chief's posts. Mr. Bristow urged that action on this matter be delayed for three months but was unable to find a seconder.

There was a motion that the names of the final contestants for the L.A. Secretaryship be published. It was decided that printing such a short-list was undesirable and the motion was lost, 13 votes to 11.

On publications Mr. Carter asked that the Conference Papers be published much sooner than was the case, but rested on the assurance that this would be investigated by the Publications Committee.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

For the sake of clarity the title of the Assessors Sub-Committee has been changed to the Board of Assessors. Whether the slightly more grandiloquent nomenclature did it, or whether it was simply a forecast of the festive season, the Board will certainly be judged by some to have displayed the—

Christmas Spirit . . .

for it has been decided that as from the First Professional Examination taken this month, it will be necessary merely to score a total of 120 marks (i.e. 50%) over the whole examination in order to pass, and no minimum pass marks will be demanded for individual papers. (Merit and Honours in the F.P.E. require 160 and 200 marks respectively.)

Forty Years On

Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, one of our most respected "elder statesmen", has completed 40 years as a member of the Education Committee. In the November Council meetings it was recounted with obvious pleasure that the Minute Book recorded Mr. Sayers' attendance in March, 1919.

And what (just out of curiosity, of course) were they discussing 40 years ago? Shh—anybody listening?—"Revision of Syllabus".

Forthcoming Attraction

In view of the fact that copies of the 16th edition Dewey are now arriving in this country—and even at 12 guineas apiece the great majority of public libraries may be expected to purchase one, eventually,—this edition will be a permitted work for the Registration group A(iii) examination.

New Examination Centres

To assist candidates in the North-West taking the First Profession or Registration examinations, two additional centres, at Burnley and Salford, will be available as from the Summer 1959 examinations.

NEWS

L.A. PUBLICATIONS

The Subject Index Regional Lists for Scotland, Dorset and London, to which we referred in our last issue, have now been re-stencilled by the typing agency and will be distributed to subscribers without charge.

The Scottish Regional List will in future be checked in Scotland before stencilling, thus eliminating Sassenach inaccuracies over Scottish names.

An agreement has been approved with University Microfilms for the microfilming of the *Record*, commencing with the January 1958 issue.

After careful consideration of the costs of producing and despatching an airmail edition of the *Record*, it was agreed that this would be quite uneconomic, particularly in view of the present subscription paid by overseas members.

The production of the L.A. Special Subject Lists was criticized. The lists themselves are much appreciated and are seen by a considerable number of people outside the profession. The lists are to be printed in future, thus avoiding that unjustified look of temporary value which results from duplicated quartosheets. It is hoped that the first printed list will be ready in January or February. The price for the printed lists will remain the same as before, i.e. 2s. 6d. per list. Libraries can place standing orders for these and will be invoiced at the end of the year for the lists they have received.

Consideration was given to many proposals for new publications, including a suggestion that our publications programme be extended to include full-length bibliographies of authors and subjects.

Future Figures

Following a suggestion by Mr. E. T. Bryant (Widnes) "that the form of presentation of public library statistics be re-examined", the Library Research Committee appointed a working party to go into the question. It was readily accepted that not only could the form in which these figures are currently presented be improved, but new factors had to be taken into account, such as non-book materials and buildings.

Music Libraries Congress

Mr. L. W. Duck (Henry Watson Library) has been appointed to represent the Association at the International Congress of Music Libraries, Cambridge, 1959. There are still vacancies and for details our readers are referred to page 352 of the November *Record*.

Waving the Flag

Mr. J. F. W. Bryon's suggestion that a revised booklet be issued on the same lines as the Association's Centenary pamphlet has been accepted by the Executive Committee. There is a possibility that it will be prepared in conjunction with the proposed National Libraries Week.

The form it takes and the detail it contains will be considered after the publication of the *Roberts Report* but the general feeling of the committee was that prominence should be given to the aspect of library buildings.

Conference Expenses

A request was made by the London and Home Counties Branch for authority to pay the expenses of one member from each of the two sub-Branes to attend the Branch annual week-end conference. This was refused by the Membership Committee. On the advice of the Hon. Legal Adviser it was reaffirmed that the Council has no power to extend the existing provision for payment of expenses for attendance at Branch Conferences.

Death of

Mr. B. M. Headicar

As we go to press we note with great regret that Mr. B. M. Headicar died on 5th December, aged 83. Just before his death he kindly supplied the personal tribute to Earl Attlee which appears on the first page of this month's *Record*.

Mr. Headicar, formerly Librarian of "L.S.E." and Director of the Inter-Allied Book Centre, was active in library work until a few weeks before his death, devoting himself to the Library of the Royal Institute of Public Administration. His energy and enthusiasm were remarkable, and he will be remembered by a very wide circle of friends in the profession, not least by those who had the good fortune to attend his inspiring lectures on library organization at the University of London School of Librarianship before the war. He was the author of *A Manual of Library Organization*, which was published in the L.A. Series in 1935 and was revised in 1941.

"SKINFLINT OUTLOOK"

It was under this heading that the *Evening Telegraph* (an independent journal for Northamptonshire and adjacent counties) in its issue of 5th November, provided one of the most inspiring testimonies to Librarianship that we have yet seen. As our reporter wryly comments: "It makes a refreshing change!" The editorial is as follows:

"Can you think of any local service that yields better value for lower cost than public libraries?

More residents get more out of their library than from almost any other service that local authorities provide.

A piped water supply is a boon and a blessing. But rivers of gold that flow from books, even borrowed books, enrich the minds, lighten the hearts, and strengthen the spirits of the young, the middle-aged and the elderly.

Why are some councillors inclined to be a bit mean about buying books for library shelves? Why do they tend to pare down, rather than enlarge, the relatively niggardly sum they provide to buy books that last so long and give so much enjoyment and information?

Is it wise to cheapskate a service that could yield an ever more bountiful dividend if it was enabled to expand?

Even comparatively progressive councils are guilty of a 'penny wise, pound foolish' policy regarding library books. They spend a sum that represents about 2s. a head of population per year—less than 4d. a week for each of us. That strikes us as a skinflint scrapping and scraping. Surely the average resident of a go-ahead community is prepared to authorise more than the price of a cigarette or a sip or two of beer for a worthwhile library service?

Libraries are lending more books (especially non-fiction) to more readers. The price of books continues to rise. Book funds ought also to rise, or the service declines. Progressive councillors should double their efforts to persuade reactionary colleagues to adopt a broader, wider, wiser policy."

HOUSE AND LIBRARY NEWS

Towelmasters are to be installed in each of the cloakrooms at Chaucer House for a trial period of 6 months.

Tape recorder. A Grundig No. TK. 35 is to be purchased for the library.

Library catalogue. A second prospectus is to go out to selected libraries who have not purchased a copy. Further advertisements are to appear in the T.L.S. and Record.

Chairman. Mr. W. B. Stevenson (Hornsey) who has acted as Chairman of the Committee for several years is retiring from this Committee. He was warmly thanked for his work on it.

PUBLIC RELATIONS IN BRITAIN

Library Trends is an American periodical that is taken by all too few libraries in this country. Its October issue, however, which is devoted to *Aspects of library public relations* contains an article that is of interest to publicity-minded librarians.

The article is *Public relations beginnings in Britain* by John Wakeman (Assistant Director of Public Relations, Brooklyn P.L., formerly Branch Librarian, Dagenham). This "microcosmic view of British practice" is in fact a critical analysis of its theme. Mr. Wakeman sees the Library Association as "the villain of this particular piece" and believes that from the standpoint of public relations "its familiar ostrich position is both vulnerable and inelegant".

He concludes: "The public relations idea in British librarianship is already developing past discussion, and it is difficult to see how the process could be reversed. It will change the face of library work in England as completely as did that other American import, open access, fifty years ago."

County Library Buildings

The writer on County Library Buildings (in the October issue of *Liaison*) states that Mr. Berriman's paper gave "rise to uneasy thoughts about the comparison in results achieved by the Education Committee-controlled County Libraries and the allegedly free Municipal ones". I can only speak, of course, from my own experience in the counties I have worked in and I hope the writer will soon get over his uneasy thoughts on this subject. If counties are going ahead more rapidly than Municipal Libraries it is partly because their plight is more desperate—they have had very few years in which they could build. More important still they are going ahead because most of them are really large authorities. An odd County Librarian here and there may find it an advantage to be part of an Education Department but I doubt if this is the view held by a majority of County Librarians.

F. E. COOK.
County Librarian, Lancs. County.

BRIEFLY

All their own work. Lord Woolton recently performed the opening ceremony of a library which was designed and built by staff and parents in the village school at Barnham, Sussex.

When **Miss Alice K. Hopwood** retired as Senior Assistant at Southampton Central Library, at the end of October, she severed an association which had lasted for 70 years, beginning with her father's service as first librarian of the City in 1888.

Miss K. M. Gayford recently completed 40 years service with Norwich Public Library, where at present she is Central Lending Librarian.

The **Library of the Royal College of Physicians of London** has stepped in to prevent the threatened destruction of the clinical notes of *King's College Hospital, London*, which had neither the storage space nor money to preserve them. These records are a valuable source for raw material of local, social and medical history, and the Royal College of Physicians has offered a home for them. A special exhibition to stimulate interest in preserving medical records was held there last month.

Bexley Heath, whose present Central Library is a wooden hut, have plans for building "soon" a new reference library and administration section.

Chairs in Swedish libraries receive special attention from the interior designers. In the children's departments, for instance, some chairs are made as large coloured toadstools, each seating several children.

38 **Village Library Centres** in N. Cornwall were replaced in October by a mobile library. The vehicle, capacity about 1,800 books, is based on Launceston and its itinerary includes such beauty spots as Tintagel and Boscastle.

Conducted tours "to give the public a chance to see something of what functions a library fulfils, apart from lending books", have been started by **Nottingham**.

New **fiction** on the shelves within a fortnight of publication, and sometimes on the day of publication, is the aim of **Edinburgh's** Central Fiction Library. There they are concentrating all English-language fiction, whether classical, popular or in translation, in an effort to relieve the crowded conditions in the Home Reading Department.

For 30 years **Rotherham** have spent half an hour a day obliterating with strips of brown paper the racing results carried by newspapers displayed in the reading room. The Council are now to be asked to authorize discontinuing the practice.

All Lit Up. Bedford Council have decided to floodlight their public library next year.

Knowing Your Way Around

Successful T.V. quiz contestant Bernard Davies, who in a run of 10 weeks on one programme alone, earned himself £5,800, in an interview with a *News Chronicle* reporter admitted: "The whole art is knowing your way about libraries." He uses two himself—Kensington and Paddington.

Punched card charging. Following the successful introduction of this method at their East Holborn Branch (noted in August *Liaison*) Holborn brought punched card charging into operation at their Central Library on 8th December. It is claimed that people can come in "as fast as they can put their books on the counter".

No fines are to be charged in future by **Edmonton** who have been levying fines since 1890 (and, curiously, are in the County of Middlesex who have sought to legalize the practice by Act of Parliament). Where written application has to be made for an overdue book or gramophone record, 6d. will be charged to cover expenses. No estimate can yet be made of the effect which this innovation will have upon revenue.

The reference stock at **Fleet** (Hampshire) is described as "deplorable" by a correspondent in an Aldershot paper. Their Whitaker is a 1956 edition and the writer was told that with the present library grant it was that or nothing.

Pass the hat round. Reporting the gift of money which enabled **Falmouth** to purchase the *Biography of King George VI*, the Chairman of the Libraries Committee commented: "If there are any more public-spirited people, the Library also badly needs a book on Old Silver, costing six guineas."

During Mr. Gaitskell's visit to **Plymouth** Central Library he saw what is described as "the busiest children's library in the world". Their Send-Us-a-Holiday-Card appeal produced picture cards from all parts of England and Europe, many of which were used in conjunction with displays.

Plymouth's new library received a "gift of conscience" from a German pilot who took part in the air raids on the City.

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Tall stories (but true)

The **telephoned reader's request** for the play "Pity is infinite" that reached the reader's enquiry service as "Kiry is Intimate".

This is a **vouched-for request** from a reader living in Bushey—"Are there any evening classes in trumpet playing in this area for my batman"?

PICTURES BY THE MILLION

Librarians are not great ones for making extravagant claims, so that the bold assertion "Every Picture You Need Is In The . . . Library" is doubly arresting. The library in question is the Radio Times Hulton Picture Library which was bought recently by the B.B.C. (reported in *Liaison* for September). *Liaison* visited this library and although we did not test their claim it did seem that with a stock reputed to be six million pictures and an experienced, hand-picked staff they were not wildly exaggerating.

In its present form the library has been in existence since 1946. The pictures taken by cameramen working for magazines run by the Hulton Press, and particularly for the late-lamented *Picture Post*, formed the nucleus of the library; to these were added thousands of illustrations taken from collections occasionally purchased for the purpose. The subject coverage implied in their claim is virtually anything and everything, but the purely *topical*—the type of "rush" news pictures which is the life's-blood of the national dailies—is appropriately left to the news-photo agencies. Curiously, the library's intake of new pictures is at present negligible; they are still using and integrating the resources they already possess. The majority of the pictures are black-and-white press photographs, the rest range from woodcuts and engravings to modern photographic colour negatives. All this is loose-filed in about 300 conventional 4-drawer steel filing cabinets which, despite their total weight, are thankfully on one level, stretching in long lines down a large area which at one end opens out on to a wide, light working space which is occupied by the classifiers.

Mr. Gibbs-Smith, of the Victoria & Albert, was called in right at the beginning to work out a classification to suit the library. He rejected the standard numerical methods in favour of what the library has found to be a most successful "feature" scheme. The unexpected absence of a monster catalogue seemed to prove the point that the scheme is largely self-indexing.

No-Man's Land

The dozen or so staff is all-female. It was explained (and we conceded the point) that "as a rule men simply haven't the resources of patience for the job, and in any case would never stick it for the money we can offer". Eight of the staff are classifiers and—sorry—there is not an F.L.A. among them. For this is a job that certainly appears to demand special qualities rather than professional qualifications. To start with graduates are invariably chosen: the reason given was that they can be expected to have a minimum level of "background" and some practical experience in the technique of research. Then a genuine liking for picture work is desirable—a number of the present staff have come from similar work.

Very sensibly all the classifiers have also to search the files for the picture requests that stream in at the rate of about 200 a week, and any one can request from one to three hundred pictures. And from the nature of many of the requests one can appreciate that not only intelligence but imagination—even "flair"—and, predominantly, a thoroughly good memory are essential.

Vamps . . . Subtopia

There are the "theme" approaches, for instance: the creative departments of advertising agencies seeking suitable material on such topics as "vamps" and "subtopia". Film companies are getting into the habit of asking the library for illustrations of places in the British Isles which could simulate foreign locations (Lundy was the suggestion accepted for "Treasure Island"), and in this way the staff must have saved some film companies thousands of pounds.

Film companies, however, are in the miscellaneous group of subscribers to a service *anyone* can use, on payment of a fee which varies according to the work involved—the staff are inclined to talk quite naturally of "customers" and "clients". The B.B.C. are probably the heaviest "clients"; second, television—I.T.A. and B.B.C.; then book publishers—chiefly of educational books; next, advertising in its many forms; then some call from periodical, magazine and newspaper publishers; lastly, a miscellaneous group, for example, film companies, filmstrip makers, and lecturers.

Although the B.B.C. are the principal users of the library this had little if anything to do with their taking over: it was an enterprise on their part and one which is intended to be financially self-supporting, even profitable. For the present the only evidence that the B.B.C. are now in control is the slightly changed title of the library, a door mat which advertises the *Radio Times*, and the not-so-evident fact that the staff are now B.B.C. employees. In a few years, however, the Corporation propose moving the library to the St. Marylebone High Street district, to join company with the B.B.C.'s Publications Department. Then, so they say, the chief worry will be—will the new premises be as suitable as their present one-level area in Hulton House?